



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor & City Council

DATE: March 11, 2014

FROM: John McDonough, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Discuss Request for Private Cameras on Public Right-of-way

MEETING DATE: For Submission onto the March 18, 2014, City Council Work Session Agenda

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (Attach additional pages if necessary)

See attached:

Presentation

APPROVAL BY CITY MANAGER: Jan APPROVED

PLACED ON AGENDA FOR: 3/18/2014

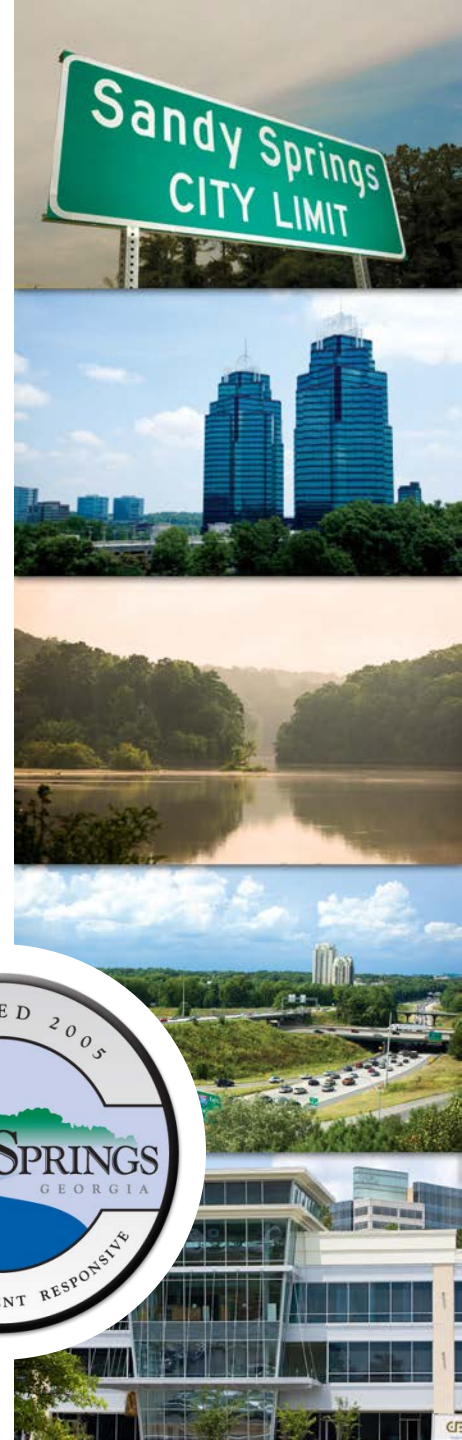
CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL REQUIRED: (☒) YES (☐) NO

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL: SM

REMARKS:

NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY CAMERAS

MARCH 18, 2014



Requests for Neighborhood Cameras

2

- A request has been received for approval to install security cameras at their entrance(s) to a neighborhood.
 - The equipment will be owned, installed and maintained by the neighborhood at their expense.
- If there is a Homeowners Association (HOA), the request must be from it's officers.
- Direction is needed on how to deal with such requests since there is no current policy.

Requests for Neighborhood Cameras

3

- There are two locations of where to install cameras:
 - Private Property
 - Public Right of way

Use and Effectiveness of Security Cameras and Associated Signage

4

- Cameras and signage (i.e. “Neighborhood Under Video Surveillance”) may offer security benefits to owners and residents of residential property.
- The images captured by cameras may be used by law enforcement to investigate crimes and bring perpetrators to justice.

Possible locations for cameras

5

- On private property at or near the roadway.
- Public right of way
 - Roadway shoulder area
 - In the median of the road if the entrance had a divided roadway entrance with landscape and/or neighborhood monument.

Installation on Private Property

6

- Installation of security camera systems on private property is preferred by staff.
- Current regulations require a variance for a pole taller than 4 feet in the front yard since it's considered an Accessory Structure.
- To exceed 4 feet: requires a variance and Board of Appeals approval.

Installation on Private Property (cont'd)

7

Options:

- Leave the process for zoning variance in place – no change.
- Amend the zoning ordinance administratively to simplify the review and to allow security cameras on poles.
- Create a “Neighborhood Security Camera” definition and policy procedures that would be similar to the new Traffic Calming Policy.
 - Installation on private property would have to be pursued first by the requesting neighborhood.

Installation on Public Property

8

- Installation of neighborhood cameras may not always be feasible on private property.
- If not feasible on private property, the neighborhood may request installation on public right-of-way with evidence that private property efforts were tried first.
 - The size of property should be less than 2ft by 2ft
- Create a policy similar to the new Traffic Calming Policy for obtaining neighborhood support.
 - It would require the City to abandon public property for the installation and the neighborhood would have to agree who the abandonment property goes to (i.e. adjacent property owner, HOA, etc).

Installation on Public Property (cont'd)

If the applicant meets the criteria set forth in the policy(s), staff will present to Council.

- City would follow the legal process for the abandonment of public property outlined in OCGA § 32-7-3.
- Abandoned portion is owned and maintained by neighborhood.
- As a condition to abandonment, the City retains the right to reacquire the property in the future for nominal consideration.
- If request satisfies all criteria, staff takes to Council to determine if abandonment petition should be prepared.

Compliance Considerations

Example Restriction/Compliance of the neighborhood:

- Requiring approval of neighborhood or HOA similar to Traffic Calming Policy
 - Install on private property.
 - If obstructions to install on private property, process per City abandonment laws.
- Location of camera(s)
- Position of camera(s) – must be fixed type (cannot rotate)
- Neighborhood will obtain any required utility or building permit.
- Aesthetic requirements
- Height requirements
- Sign requirements (install signs in neighborhood advising the public that there is a security camera system in place.)
- All material, equipment, cost, fees must be borne by the neighborhood.
- The City will not monitor cameras.

Considerations

11

Depending on Council's feedback and subject to limitations advised by legal, staff is prepared to move forward to:

- Draft the necessary text amendments to allow security cameras on private property as an Administrative Permit.
- Draft a policy setting forth criteria for allowing private cameras in City abandoned right-of-way.

Questions?